

Ye Are Even As The Bird

Bahá'u'lláh

Gleanings From The Writings Of Bahá'u'lláh, CLIII, pp. 327*, 328**
 Bahá'í Publishing Trust, Wilmette IL, 1976
 SSAATTB

John Thomas Higgins

SOPRANO **ALTO**

$\text{♩} = 60$

Ye* are even as the bird which soar- eth, with the full force of its

mighty wings and with com - plete and joy-ous con - fi - dence through the im -

men - si - ty of the heav - ens,___ heav - ens un - til, im - pelled to

sat - is - fy its hun - ger, hun - ger___

it turn - eth long - ing-ly to the

and, hav-ing been en - trapped in the

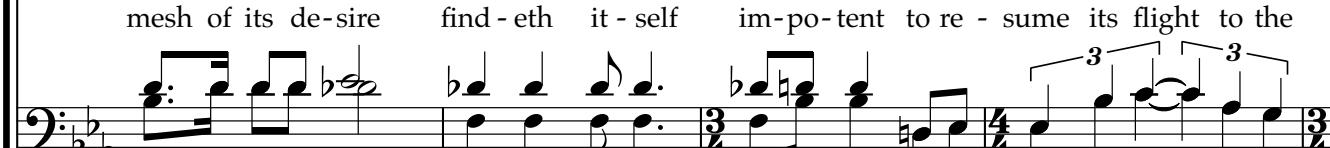
wat - er and clay of the earth_ be-low it, and hav-ing been en trapped in the

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41

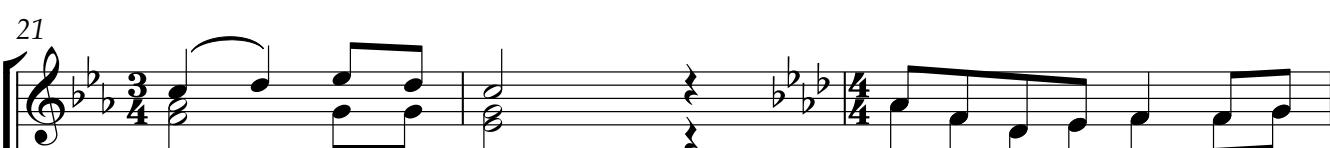
17

S. A. 

T. B. 

mesh of its de-sire find - eth it - self im-po-tent to re - sume its flight to the
 mesh of its de-sire find-eth it - self im-po-tent to re - sume its flight to the

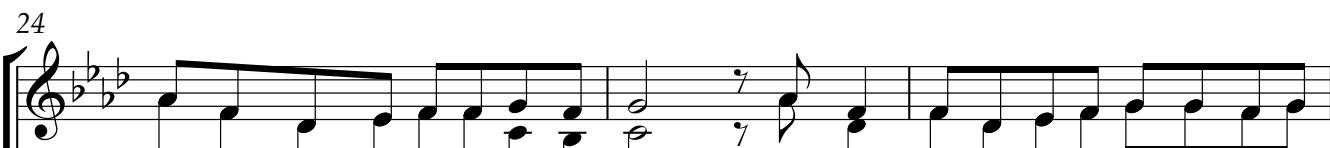
21

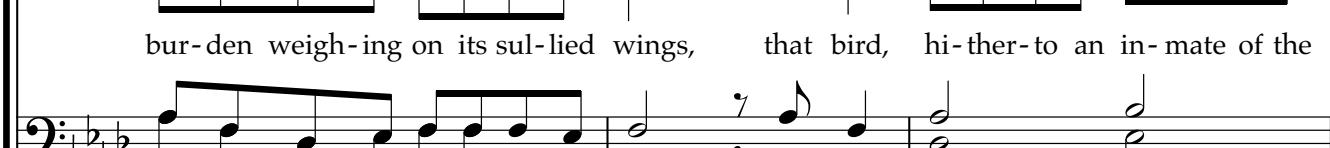
S. A. 

T. B. 

realms whence it came. Pow-er - less to shake off the
 realms whence it came. Pow-er - less to shake off the

24

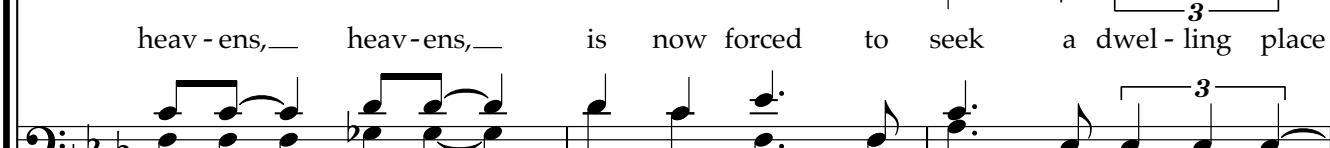
S. A. 

T. B. 

bur-den weigh-ing on its sul-lied wings, that bird, hi-ther-to an in-mate of the
 bur-den weigh-ing on its sul-lied wings, that bird, ah ah

27

S. A. 

T. B. 

heav - ens, heav - ens, is now forced to seek a dwel - ling place
 heav - ens, heav - ens, is now forced to seek a dwel - ling place

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30 rit. $\text{J}=60$

S. A. — u-pon the dust. Where- fore, O My ser- vants, de - file not your wings with the

T. B. — u-pon the dust. Where- fore, O My ser- vants, de - file not your wings with the

34

S. A. clay of way-ward- ness and vain de- sires.

T. B. clay of way-ward- ness and vain de- sires. **The world is but a show, vain and

38

S. A. The world is but a show, vain and emp-ty,-

T. B. emp-ty emp-ty a mere noth-ing

42

S. A. Set not your af- fec- tions u-pon it.

T. B. — bear-ing the semb- lance of re-al-i- ty.

46

S. A. The world is but a show, vain____ and emp- ty, a mere noth-ing

T. B. The world is but a show, vain____ and emp- ty, a mere noth-ing

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43

50

S. A. Set not
bear-ing the semb-lance of re-al-i-ty. Set not your af-fec-tions u-pon it.

T. B. bear-ing the semb-lance of re-al-i-ty. Set not your af-fec-tions u-pon it.

54

S. A. The world is but a show vain and emp-ty Set not your af - fec - tions

T. B. The world is but a show, vain and emp-ty Set not your af - fec - tions

58

S. A. Solo, sing slowly
Set not your af-fec-tions u-pon it. Ye are e-ven as the bird which soar-eth,

T. B. Set not your af-fec-tions u-pon it.

Performance notes

This music makes use of the technique of 'word painting', the musical depiction of words in the text. It tries to imitate the emotion or action described in the text, moving upwards as the bird soars, using dissonance as the bird is trapped in the clay of the material world. The last section sets parallel fourths and fifths together like trumpets blaring as Caesar paraded by, in a movie of ancient Rome, to emphasize that the world, truly, is "but a show".